MUSEUM STORIES FOR CHILDREN

SERIES V NUMBER ONE OCTOBER 2, 1926

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

This series of Entertainments for Children will take you on a trip around the world; and each Saturday, the story will tell you some important facts about the country you have visited.

D. C. Davies, Director.

A TRIP TO SOUTH AMERICA

Let us pretend that we are going on a long journey to see how the people in other countries live. Since South America is near, we shall go there today. We shall cross the equator soon after we reach the southern continent; and we shall find the weather very warm. After that it will seem strange to feel cooler the farther south we go; but we must remember that the tip of South America is almost as close to the South Pole as Alaska is to the North Pole.

All along the west coast, we travel near the Andes, one of the longest and highest mountain systems in the world. Some mountain peaks rise so high that even at the equator the snow and ice never melt. In Colombia we can see forests so dense that it is difficult to cut a way through them even with heavy axes. In these tropical jungles there are many trees which yield chicle, which is used in making chewing gum. Most of the world's supply of platinum and of emeralds comes from Colombia. In this land and in the little republic of Ecuador just south of it, we can see many varieties of palm trees. Many of the buttons on our clothes are made of vegetable ivory from the nuts of the tagua palm. Ecuador also supplies us with a great deal of cacao, from which cocoa and chocolate are made.

Most of the people we meet along the way are dark-skinned and speak Spanish. Some of them are Indians, some negroes, many are of mixed blood and a few are white. In the old city of Lima we may learn the history of South American peoples; for it was the Spanish capital of South America long before it became the capital of Pcru. Before Columbus discovered America, many Indian tribes were living in scattered settlements all over the continent. The Incas, who lived on the Andes mountains in Pcru and Bolivia had learned how to farm and irrigate their land; how to spin and weave beautiful cloth; how to work in gold and silver and how to construct wonderful stone buildings. They believed that their ancestors came from a mythical "Island of the Sun," in Lake Titicaca, the largest lake in South America. In the year 1535 Pizarro, a Spanish soldier-explorer, conquered the Incas and many other Indian tribes and thus the west coast of South America came under Spanish rule.

As we watch the mining operations in Peru, Chilc and Bolivia we can understand why the Spanish were so eager to conquer the new land. For many years the Andes have yielded great quantities of gold and copper. The high inland country of Bolivia gives the world one quarter of all the tin which is mined. Near the coast we pass through the deserts made famous by nitrate deposits, used chiefly for the making of fertilizers and of explosives. Chile is the only country in the world where natural nitrate of soda can be found. Guano is another kind of fertilizer obtained from islands off the coast of Peru.

In our journey through the mountains, the llama, "Camel of the Andes," may carry our baggage. If we try to make llamas carry more than one hundred pounds on their back they will lie down and wait patiently until we take off the extra weight. Llamas and their relatives the alpacas and the wild vicugnas have furnished wool for spinning and weaving since the days of the Incas. Another creature which makes its home on the Andes mountains is the condor, the largest of our flying birds. The extended wings of some condors measure ten feet from tip to tip.

Travelling through southern Chile, we pass the Straits of Magellan; and then, turning northward, we reach a land much like our own mid-west prairie country. In Argentina we cross many miles of flat treeless prairie known as the "Pampa." Here the cattle, horses and sheep introduced long ago by the Spaniards are tended by the Argentine gaucho or cow-boy. Before white men came to South America the only large animal of this region was the guanaco, a wild wool-bearing creature somewhat like the llama.

When we arrive in Buenos Aires, the capital of Argentina, we may wonder for a moment if we have come back to Chicago by mistake, such a bustle and stir is going on all the time. People say that Buenos Aires is the commercial capital of South America. It is situated near the mouth of the second largest river system on the continent, the Rio de la Plata and the Parana. More beef is sent out from Argentina than any other country in the world; and great quantities of wheat are exported, too. Alfalfa and corn grow well in the temperate climate of the Rio de la Plata lands.

As we journey north through Uruguay we learn that, as in Argentina, ranchmen play an important part in the life of that tiny republic. The small inland country of Paraguay produces an important native drink called Paraguay tea; and many South Americans think they cannot get along without it. The drink is made from the leaves of the Yerba mate, which grows in the very heart of the continent.

Practically all the remainder of our trip is spent in the republic of Brazil, a country almost as large as all the other South American countries put together. Its beautiful capital city, Rio de Janiero, has one of the finest harbors in the world. In Brazil the people speak Portuguese; for this country used to be a colony of Portugal. As we travel northward near the coast, we pass through the highlands, where many diamonds and other gems are mined. The largest undeveloped iron ore deposits in the world are in this region. Two-thirds of the world's supply of coffee comes from Brazil.

When we reach the city of Para, famous for exporting rubber, we are close to the tropical jungles of the Amazon river basin. That river is the largest in South America, with 3000 miles navigable. In this region are dense forests of palms, ferns and valuable hardwoods. Brazil nuts grow on some of the tallest trees.' Here many monkeys chatter, sloths hang motionless from the trees, and parrots and other bright-colored birds of the tropics make the jungles noisy with their calls.

In the South American collections at the Museum relics of the Incas and many articles from modern Indian tribes, are to be found in the east half of Hall 8. South American animals and birds can be found in several cases in Halls 15 and 21. Copper, nitrates, gold, silver and precious stones are shown in Halls 36 and 31. Rubber, coffec, palm products and many other South American plants are displayed in Halls 25, 28 and 29.

MARGARET FISHER, Guide-lecturer.

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FOR

CHILDREN

SERIES V
NUMBER ONE
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FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

MUSEUM STORIES

FOR

SERIES V
NUMBER TWO
OCTOBER 9, 1926

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

Three Museum expeditions are now at work in Africa. The collections to be made by them and the ones already installed in the Museum halls will help you to see Africa as a bright and interesting land instead of a dark and unknown country.

D. C. DAVIES, Director.

Imagine today that we are aboard a steamer bound for Africa. Sailing east across the Atlantic Occan brings us to the Strait of Gibraltar, which is the entrance to the Mcditerranean Sea. Instead of entering there, however, we turn southward and follow the shores of Africa. Passing the coast of Morocco, we can see part of the high Atlas mountain range. According to ancient story, Mt. Atlas was the home of a giant Titan who held up the sky with his shoulders. In the Gulf of Guinea we cross the equator. The equator passes through the center of Africa; and the weather is very warm almost all over the continent.

As our steamer approaches the Cape of Good Hopc, at the southern tip of Africa, we may pretend for a moment that we are Portuguese explorers of five centuries ago searching for a new route to the East Indies. We turn northward into the Indian Ocean and sec on our right, Madagascar, the third largest island in the world. After crossing the equator again, we enter the Red Sea. To the east lies Arabia, the land of the Arabs, who are well-known to us through the tales of Arabian Nights. As we journey toward the Suez Canal, we see Egypt, the land of the ancient Pharaohs. Through the Suez Canal we reach the castern waters of the Mediterranean Sea and soon are boarding a smaller boat at the Delta, which forms the mouth of the Nile river. Just south of the Delta is Cairo, the present capital of Egypt and the largest city on the continent.

As we travel up the river we may see along the shores stone tombs where the ancient Egyptians stored treasures which they believed would be useful to the spirits of their dead. The most famous tomb structure is the Great Pyramid, built by Cheops, king of Egypt five thousand years ago. Not far away in the desert stands the Sphinx. It is an immense granite figure carved to represent a lion with a human face. No one knows when or why the Sphinx was made; but people say that it hides a great secret.

All about the Sphinx and the pyramids and for thousands of miles beyond, lies the Sahara Desert. It is the greatest desert in the world; and it is larger than the whole United States. People travel over it on camels; and sometimes they are choked and blinded by terrible sand-storms called "siroccos." Wherever springs of water occur in the desert, green plants flourish. Such a region is called an oasis. Some of the dates we eat may have been gathered from palm trees growing in oases of the Sahara.

Long ago the people of northern Africa learned to use the waters of the Nile river to make their crops grow. Today, with better methods of irrigation, large quantities of cotton, corn, wheat and other

valuable crops are raised every year.

Although the Nile is the longest river in Africa, our boat cannot go up into the head-waters because of the cataracts or water-falls. Continuing our journey by land, we find that the river is divided into two great streams. The Blue Nile is fed by mountain waters from Abyssinia; and the source of the White Nile is Lake Victoria. That lake is larger than any other in the world except Lake Superior. Not far away rises Mt. Stanley, named for the explorer who went to rescue David Livingstone. Even on the equator the mountain peaks are covered with snow; and the people use snow-shoes and go tobogganning.

The Lake country in the central highlands of Africa is the source of another great river, which flows at right angles to the Nile and empties into the Atlantic Ocean. This is the Congo, greater in water flow than all other rivers except the Amazon of South America. It carries us into the heart of the tropical jungles. The dense forests of this region yield large quantities of rubber, palm nuts and palm oil. Some of the tallest trees in the forest produce the valuable brown mahogany which is found only in Africa.

There are two other large rivers in Africa,—the Niger flowing into the Gulf of Guinea; and the Zambesi, which empties into the Indian Ocean. Far up the Zambesi river are the beautiful Victoria Falls which are twice as high as Niagara Falls. South of Victoria Falls lies a dreary looking sandy plain. This region is famous for diamonds. Untold numbers of beautiful diamonds are still buried in the rocks. In a region called the "Rand," not far away, lie the greatest gold fields in the world. Copper and iron are also

mined in South Africa and in other parts of the continent.

Africa is the land of big game. African elephants are the largest animals living today. Both the elephant and the hippopotamus are hunted for their valuable ivory tusks. The tallest living creature is the long-necked giraffe. A relative of the giraffe, smaller and much more rare, has recently been discovered in Africa. It is called the okapi; and it hides in the dense forests of the Congo. In the highlands of central Africa there are vast grassy plains called the "Veldt." Here are found many varieties of African antelopes such as the gnu, koo-doo and dik-dik and wild horses such as the zebra. The fiercer African animals prey on these flect-footed grazing and browsing creatures. Lions, leopards and hyenas are especially fond of antelope meat. On our journeys up the Nile and down the Congo we encounter the dangerous crocodile. Many forests of central Africa are full of monkeys; and there are baboons, mandrills, chimpanzees and gorillas in the forests, too.

The jungle of the Congo river basin is the home of the typical African Negro. Most of these people live in grass huts and wear very few clothes. There are hundreds of small tribes, each speaking a different language. Many, however, speak dialects of the Bantu language; for the Bantu tribes are numerous and powerful. We have little desire to meet the cannibal tribes; but we are eager to see the pygmies. Full-grown pygmies in Africa are no larger than twelve-year-old American boys; and their babies are like dolls.

Pygmies are hunters; and the boys soon become skillful in the use of bows and arrows.

Many white and brown skinned people live in Africa today. The British control all of South Africa; many of them live in Cape Town and other cities near the southern coast. In northern Africa there are Arabs, Moors and some Europeans. France and England control most of Africa today; and Belgium, Portugal, Spain and Italy also have colonics. Only a few countries such as Abyssinia have independent

governments.

Field Museum has obtained much material from Africa. We can see African animals in Pullman Hall, in Hall 15 and in Hall 22. Two immense African elephants, posed as if they are fighting, stand in the center of Stanley Field Hall; and at the south end of the same Hall are bronze statues illustrating a lion hunt. Articles used in the daily life of African natives can be found in Hall 32 on the second floor; and on the ground floor, in Hall J, some of the treasures of ancient Egypt can be seen.

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MUSEUM STORIES

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FOR

CHILDREN

SERIES V

NUMBER TWO

OCTOBER 9, 1926

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

MUSEUM STORIES

FOR

CHILDREN

SERIES V

NUMBER THREE

October 16, 1926

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

The film today is to take you on a long and dangerous journey across the mountains of Persia. The story will tell you of the Persian people and their daily life.

D. C. Davies, Director.

PERSIA

When it rains in our country the children often repeat this old rhyme:

"Rain, rain go away, Come again some other day."

Persian children never say that rhyme; for they are all very glad when rainy days come. Persia is a dry desert country, where many of the rivers are lost in the sands long before they have opportunity to reach the sea. There is only one river in the whole country that is large enough to be used as a highway for trading boats. People can travel over Persian tablelands for many weary miles and see no trees, no grass and no water. The sun gives out terrible heat all day; and when it sets at night the land becomes cold because there is no moisture in the air to hold the warmth of day. Persia has two famous deserts, called Dasht-i-Lut and Dasht-i-Kavir. One is a sand desert; but the other is filled with layers and layers of rock salt deposited by ancient seas. The quantities of rock salt buried in the ground would be more than enough to build a whole city of salt.

Wherever there is water in Persia, fruits and flowers can be found in abundance. All along the southern shores, on the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman, there are hundreds of palm trees; and almost every one of them bears dates enough to satisfy many hungry mouths. Dates are the favorite food of Persian boys and girls; although they have many more good fruits such as apples, pears and peaches. Some people say that the best melons in the world can be found in Persia. It is said, too, that the world has that country to thank for growing the original grapes. Thousands of beautiful roses are cultivated every year and from them sweet perfumes are made. Fruits and flowers grow also along the shores of the Caspian Sea, in northern Persia.

Persia is a land of many mountains. They rise above the high tablclands of the east; they run almost all the way across the northern boundaries; and long chains of them stretch cross-wise through the interior, running in a northwest to southeast direction. Many of these mountains are covered with snow; and icy streams from their melting glaciers rush down into the valleys. The west side of the mountains is much warmer than the east side; and in the wide plains just beyond the western foot-hills the grass grows thick and green all through the winter. With the coming of warm weather in the spring, however, it begins to wither; and by midsummer it is all dried out. On the east side of the mountains the grass is green and fresh all through the summer; but when winter arrives it freezes and dies.

The killing of the grass by heat on one side and cold on the other causes much hardship to many nomadic or wandering tribes, who must provide pasture for their flocks. Thousands of Bakhtiari and other Kurd tribes which belong to the Iranian family pitch their tents on the western slopes of the mountains at the beginning of winter and remain until spring. Their black, white and orange-colored tents made of goat skin, and open to the air on one side, are scattered in small groups all along the base of the mountain chain. In the spring they gather their large flocks of sheep and goats and their herds of cattle, ready to begin a long, dangerous journey in search of the green grass on the other side of the mountains. Many baby lambs and goats, little colts, and calves, and many human babies, too, must endure the heat of the desert and the cold of the mountain snows. Some of the youngest baby animals are tied on the back of donkeys or cows; the human babies are wrapped in strips of cloth and strapped to large wooden frames or cradles which the mothers carry on their back.

Persian nomads depend on their flocks to provide them with food, clothing, and shelter. Their chief food is mutton; and they are very fond of milk, especially when it is soured. Men and boys as well as women wear long robes with wide sleeves; and they all wear soft, white cotton shoes, somewhat like socks. Some of them wear little round black caps. The men carry long guns; and are not afraid of anybody or any difficulty. Twice a year the nomads are forced to cross the mountains; for at the end of summer in the eastern valleys they must begin again their search for grass. In the picture today you will see some of the Bakhtiari and their herds.

There are only five times as many people living in the whole country of Persia as there are in Chicago. The Persians are Aryans, which means that they belong to the white race; but their skin is brown because they spend much time out-of-doors. Many of them are farmers living in villages near water. They raise crops of grain and fruit. Their homes are of sun-dried brick with mud floors and have very little furniture in them. In the few cities scattered over Persia there are many merchants with little shops or markets which are known as "bazaars." The salesmen sit cross-legged in the midst of their wares and bargain with their customers for a good price.

Persia has long been famous for fine hand-woven shawls, carpets and rugs. Many beautiful Persian rugs are shipped to America and sold for hundreds or even thousands of dollars. In the Chinese collections of the Museum you can see several rugs which are very similar to those made in Persia. Persian influence is also noticeable in the designs on Egyptian cloth woven about the first century A. D. Some of these fabrics are displayed in a case in Stanley Field Hall. Look especially for the figures of men on horseback.

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CHILDREN

SERIES V

NUMBER THREE

OCTOBER 16, 1926

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

MUSEUM STORIES

FOR CHILDREN

SERIES V
NUMBER FOUR
OCTOBER 23, 1926

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

The films today will show you parts of the Indian Empire. Next Saturday you will have a glimpse of China.

D. C. DAVIES, Director.

A VISIT TO THE INDIAN EMPIRE

Today we are to visit several provinces of the Indian Empire. As we approach India from the west, over the Arabian Sea, the rocky headlands seem to rise up from the water like giant stairways. India is like a great triangle with its base resting on the Himalaya mountains and its apex extending into the Indian Ocean.

The southern half of India lies in the tropics, within a few degrees of the equator. The weather is very much affected by monsoons or seasonal winds. In winter the wind is from the northeast; and the weather is cool and dry over the greater part of India. It is still dry in spring; but during that scason the heat becomes almost unbearable, especially on the northwestern deserts. The southwest monsoon brings rain, which continues all summer and late into the autumn. Sometimes the rainfall is so heavy on the east coast of India that it seems as if there might be no rain left for the rest of the world.

Passing the island of Ceylon, just beyond the southern tip of India, we enter the Bay of Bengal. We are headed for one of the many mouths of the Ganges River, India's greatest water-way. Far up the Ganges in the heart of India stands the most beautiful building in the world, the Taj Mahall. It is the tomb of an empress; and is built of white marble inlaid with precious stones. On each side of the Taj Mahall stands a tall round tower called a minaret; and these towers seem like slender court ladies attending their lovely empress, the Taj.

The Himalaya mountains extend all the way across northern India. This region is often called the "top of the world"; for some of the peaks rise higher than any other mountain tops. No one has ever climbed to the summit of Mt. Everest, which is the highest mountain in the world. The melted snows from the Himalayas supply water to four great rivers in the Indian Empire. They are the Ganges; the Brahmaputra, which joins the Ganges shortly before it empties into the Bay of Bengal; the Indus, the river which probably gave India its name; and the Irrawaddy, which is the most important river in Burma.

We may follow one of the eastern mountain streams until it joins the Irrawaddy. As the poet Kipling says, we are "on the road to Mandalay"; and we soon reach the capital of Upper Burma, which bears the name of the poem and of the district. From Mandalay all the way down to Rangoon, at the mouth of the river, there are hundreds of paddy fields. Paddy is the Anglo-Indian name for rice in the husk. The natives of Burma depend on rice as their chief food, just as we depend on bread and potatoes. The river and the Bay supply plenty of fish, which are eaten in place of meat. Indians as well as Burmese are very fond of eating relishes with their food. Many of these are mixtures of spices, chillies and mango fruits, commonly known as curry sauces and chutny.

When we look in the faces of the Burmese people working in the paddy fields or weaving silk in the villages, we may think that we have gone beyond the Indian Empire into China. The Burmese resemble the Chinese in their appearance and also in some of their customs. They have been called the Irish of the East, because of their happy ways. The majority of them are worshippers of Buddha, as we can guess by the numbers of Buddhist temples and shrines in Burma.

The land of Burma furnishes some of the most beautiful rubies which are mined. The world's main supply of teak-wood for ship building also is obtained there. Indeed, Burma has the finest forests of the Indian Empire.

The dense forests and jungles of Burma and India make excellent homes for wild animals. The largest creatures are the elephants, which usually travel in herds. When they are caught and tamed they are used as draft animals; they are often made to haul heavy timbers from the forests. Sometimes the rajahs or native princes in India ride in howdahs or decorated seats which are fastened to the backs of elephants. The mahout or elephant driver sits on the animal's neck just behind the large ears.

Tigers, leopards and other wild cats live in almost every part of the Indian Empire. Some of the tigers have developed the man-eating habit; but many of the natives are afraid to kill them because of an old belief that tigers are sacred. A similar belief keeps the deadly cobras from receiving harm, unless the snake-eating mongoose gets a chance at them. When they are angry, these dangerous snakes spread their ribs until their neck resembles a large hood. It has been said that the peculiar spectacle mark on the back of the hood looks exactly like the eye part of a hook and eye fastening.

One of the favorite birds in India is the maina, which belongs to the black-bird group. It can speak almost as well as a parrot and is often kept as a pet.

The most common domestic animals in India are the queer-looking horned and humped cattle, called zebus. Although many natives still believe that cattle are sacred and must not be killed or eaten, it is customary to make the animals work in the fields.

The majority of Indians and Burmese are farmers. There are many skillful weavers, however, and many artisans especially clever in making beaten brass bowls and trays; and in carving wood and ivory.

Field Museum contains a number of exhibits which represent the Indian Empire. There are brass articles, musical instruments, a large temple incense burner and a small model of the Taj Mahal in Hall 32. In Higginbotham Hall (Hall 31), and in Stanley Field Hall you can see some beautiful jewelry. Hall 29 contains models of several kinds of fruits and flowers commonly found in the fat East; and Hall 25 contains a case in which spices for curry sauce are displayed. On the ground flow in Hall I, you can find dance masks from Ceylon, representing the southern edge of the Empire. I you read labels all through the zoological halls on the main floor, you are likely to find many animals birds, snakes and even fishes from various parts of the Indian Empire.

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MUSEUM STORIES

you will have a glimpse of China.

FOR

CHILDREN

SERIES V NUMBER FOUR OCTOBER 23, 1926

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

MUSEUM STORIES

FOR

CHILDREN

SERIES V
NUMBER FIVE
OCTOBER 30, 1926

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

China is such a large country that we can see only parts of it in today's films. You can learn a great deal more about China by studying the Blackstone collections in the Museum.

D. C. DAVIES, Director.

We may enter China through the "back door" if we follow the mountains of Burma northward. There are many mountains in this part of Asia. Some of them run north and south like those in Burma; but most of them run east and west like the Himalayas. If we travel northeast we soon reach the source of the Yangtze river, which is the greatest waterway in China. We may go aboard a river junk, or large trading vessel, and sail into the heart of the country. Along the way the boat stops at the wharves of China's larger inland cities, such as Nanking and Hankow. At the mouth of the river we may travel south along the shores of the China Sca and visit some important harbor towns, perhaps Shanghai, Hongkong or Canton. We may choose, instead, to go north before we reach the sea and visit the capital of China, Peking.

Another boat takes us from the Yangtze to the Yellow river, through the Grand Canal. That artificial waterway was dug through central China to serve as a convenient road for travel and trade. Along the way there are stone bridges and a few tall pagodas. Near the Yellow River the canal waters become rather muddy. That is because the Grand Canal crosses the river and receives some of its yellow mud, which is carried from the plains of north China to the Yellow Sea. One of China's ancient rulers was called the Yellow Emperor, probably because he owned the "loess" or yellow land; and that

color belonged to the emperors for many centuries.

A short distance north of the Yellow River we leave the Grand Canal and travel overland to Peking. Near the city is the eastern end of the Great Wall of China. This famous wall was built centuries ago to keep savage wandering tribes from entering the kingdom. It extends over mountain and valley for fifteen hundred miles, much farther than from Chicago to New York.

The history of China began so long ago that many myths or stories are told concerning its early days. In one tale a dragon horse rises out of the Yellow River bearing on its back a scroll or piece of writing. Some say that this was the beginning of learning. The Chinese have always been very eager to study. Confucius, who lived more than two thousand years ago, was China's greatest scholar. Every child in the land knows some of the wise sayings of Confucius; and many boys spend years studying the

"classics," which are books written by Confucius and other wise men of ancient China. At the time Marco Polo visited China the fierce horse-riding tribes from Mongolia had forced their way past the Great Wall and conquered the people south of them. One of the greatest Mongol rulers of China was Kublai Khan, who was celebrated in English poetry as well as in Chinese history. Three centuries after the Mongol invasion, the Tartar tribes came down from Manchuria and took possession of the Chinese Empire. These Manchus, in turn, ruled for three centuries; and then, in 1911, the Chinese people put them out of power and formed a republic.

There are more than four times as many people living in China as there are in the United States. The Chinese, as a rule, have round, smiling faces; and they are very polite. They love beautiful things. Some of them wear fine woven and embroidered silks and silver jewelry decorated with the blue feathers

The Chinese eat their food with chop-sticks instead of forks. Rice and tea are served every day; and other common foods are beans and their sprouts, pork, eggs and shell-fish. Children are very fond of small balls of flour paste cooked in sugar, Lichi nuts and persimmons are favorite fruits, especially in Southern China.

Many of the Chinese are farmers. They raise quantities of rice, tea and cotton; and many fruits such as peaches, plums and oranges. In their gardens they develop varieties of chrysanthemums, peonies, lilies, wistarias and other lovely flowers. Some of the most useful plants in China are the trees from which lacquer or varnish is obtained and the white mulberry trees, the leaves of which furnish food for silk-worms.

It is said that the wife of the Yellow Emperor started the custom of raising silk-worms to provide silk for weaving cloth. The Chinese feed and care for the tiny insects as if they were pets. Another insect pet in China is the cricket. The little creatures arc kept in cages and coaxed to sing. They are also the prize-fighters of China. For years the Chinese have enjoyed the sport of placing two fighting crickets in an earthcnware bowl and then awarding the winner an ivory medal.

There are hundreds of carp in the rivers of China; and from some of them have been developed gold-fish and the peculiar telescope-cyed carp. Perhaps the alligators of the rivers were the original dragons of Chinese mythology. Some other creatures found in the land are snub-nosed monkeys, pandas, which are somewhat like raccoons, bamboo rats and mandarin ducks.

Names and pictures are often used in China as symbols of certain ideas. The tiger, for example, means bravery; and the pine tree, the crane and the tortoise may be used to express the idea of long life.

The bat means happiness; and the dragon may show kingly power.

The Chincsc have long been famous for their artistic ability. When they write, the words or "characters" are painted with brushes on paper or silk, so carefully that they may look to us like neat designs. Delicate porcelain dishes were first made in China; and it is because the Chinese were the original porcelain makers that we call our table sets china. The Chinese were among the earliest bronze

Field Museum has large Chinese collections. In the Blackstone Chinese collection (Hall 24) there are embroidered and painted screens, cricket cages, bronzes, porcelain, writing brushes and ink, jewelry and many other articles brought from China. Among the collections in Hall 32, there are carved ivory figures and several Manchu robes. Look for the emperor's robe woven of silk tapestry in the imperial yellow, with the royal five-clawed dragons. In the corridor between Halls 24 and 32, there are a number of small models of Chinese pagodas. On the ground floor, in Hall I, you can see several life size models of Chinese actors; and near them are shadow play figures cut from parchment. cloth lions, in another case, were used by travelling show-men to make children laugh as the actors jumped about, hidden underneath the cloth bodies.

MARGARET FISHER, Guide-lecturer.

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November, December, January 10 A. M. to 4 P. M.

February, March, April, October 10 A. M. to 5 P. M.

D. C. DAVIES, Director.

China is such a large country that we can see only parts of it in today's films. You can learn a great deal more about China by studying the Blackstone col-

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MUSEUM STORIES

lections in the Museum.

FOR

CHILDREN

SERIES V
NUMBER FIVE
OCTOBER 30, 1926

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

MUSEUM STORIES FOR

CHILDREN

SERIES V

NUMBER SIX

November 6, 1926

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

The films, the story and the Gunsaulis collections combine today to give you a glimpse of the Japanese Empire.

D. C. DAVIES, Director.

JAPANESE LIFE

Today we are to visit the Japanese Empire. Passing the borderland of China, we reach Korea or Chosen, which is now a part of Japan. This land has a beautiful name; for it means Morning Splendor. From Korea we cross the Sca of Japan, in order to reach the islands which form the most important division of the Empire. Japanese children call their country Dai Nippon,—Great Land of the Rising Sun; and their flag has a great red sun-disk in the center of it.

The largest island has many mountains running lengthwise through the narrow land. Many of the mountains are volcanic; and some of them still pour burning lava from their eraters. The best known volcanic mountain in the Japanese Empire is Fujiyama, which has been quiet for so long that its crater is covered with snow. Mt. Fuji is famous for its beauty throughout the world; and the Japanese believe it is sacred. Japanese artists have painted so many pictures of Fujiyama that every child in the country knows how the mountain looks, even though he may have never seen it.

Off the north coast of the main island is the Tuscarora Deep, the lowest sea bed in the world. To reach the bottom of the sea at this place, we would need a line more than four thousand fathoms long. Japanese legend tells of a giant sea-monster which stirs the deep waters with its tail and causes earthquakes. Children in Japan are so accustomed to earthquakes that they scarcely notice them unless the shaking becomes intense.

According to an old myth, Japan was created by two great gods of the sky. Their daughter, the Sun Goddess, was the great, great grandmother of Jimmu Tenno, first emperor of Japan. Even today many loyal Japanese believe that their emperors are descended from the Sun Goddess; and they treasure a large mirror, said to be a gift from her.

For many centurics Japan paid very little attention to the rest of the world. In the thirteenth century, when Marco Polo went to visit Asiatic lands, a number of Japanese leaders had gained control of the government and were ruling in the name of the emperor. During four centuries these shoguns were the real rulers of Japan. Their followers were brave knights called "samurai," who carried two swords and were always ready to fight. The samurai pledged themselves to be loyal to their country and to their leaders. In 1868 there was a terrible civil war in Japan and the samurai and shoguns lost their power. Since that time Japan has been ruled directly by the emperors. Recently the people have adopted many ideas from the United States and from Europe; and Japan has become one of the leading powers of the world.

The Japanese people are usually rather short, and have black hair and eyes. The kimono is their national dress; and boys as well as girls wear it, unless they have adopted western styles. The girls are very proud of their wide sashes called "obi," which are tied at the back in large knots or in butterfly bows. Everyone wears queer short stockings called "tabi," made like mittens, with a separate place for the large toe. When Japanese people enter a house or even a shop, they take off their sandals and walk on the clean white mats in their tabi.

Japanese houses have wooden shutters and papered screens which can be pushed back so that half the house is open like a porch. There is very little furniture. Quilts laid on the floor serve as beds. There are no chairs; and even babies soon learn to sit with their legs folded under them on the floor.

Japan has borrowed many ideas from China. Japanese children know many stories of Chinese heroes; for they study Chinese literature in school. The Japanese have learned from the Chinese how to raise silkworms and weave beautiful silks. They plant rice and use it as their chief food. They have mastered the art of wood carving; and they produce lovely color prints from specially carved wood blocks. Children are taught to make delicate brush paintings of landscapes and flowers, especially of the favorite cherry blossoms and the plum. Like the Chinese, they also draw beautiful written characters.

A Japanese girl is not well educated unless she has learned to arrange cut flowers in vases, so carefully that the blossoms and leaves look as if they were still growing on the plant. Another important part of her education consists in learning how to serve tea according to certain strict rules, such as using certain cups, bowing in a particular way and talking only on special topics.

On New Year's Day in Japan every baby adds another year to his age. At that time there are always many interesting things for children and grown-ups to do, such as flying kites; eating sweet riee dumplings called "mochi"; and watching the sunrise. On that day, in many Japanese homes, the people throw dried beans into every eorner, in order to drive away evil spirits. Then a spray of holly with the head of a sardine stuck on it is hung over the entrance, so the demons may not come back.

Small girls of Japan count the days until the Doll Festival, which comes on the third day of the third month. Then they take from the store-rooms dolls with which they can play only once a year. There are complete scts of doll furniture, tca sets, jinrikshas and everything a doll might need. Rice wine called "sake" and favorite foods are placed on low tables and offered to the dolls. Some of these special dolls are dressed in fine silk garments made like those worn by the emperor, the empress and famous historical characters. With these, Japanese mothers teach their children the history of Japan.

Gunsaulus Hall in Field Museum eontains exhibits from Japan. The prints from wood blocks, called "surimono" or greeting cards, show Japansee houses and temples, native dress, games, gods and heroes. Every three months a different set of prints is hung. In another part of Gunsaulus Hall you will see a set of small dolls; and also several life size models of Japanese girls dressed in real kimono. There are some old suits of armor nearby; and fittings for swords, also. All of these exhibits will help you to understand Japanese life.

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D. C. DAVIES, Director.

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The films, the story and the Cunsaulus collections combine today to give you

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MUSEUM STORIES

FOR

CHILDREN

SERIES V

NUMBER SIX

NOVEMBER 6, 1926

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

MUSEUM STORIES FOR CHILDREN

SERIES V

NUMBER SEVEN

NOVEMBER 13, 1926

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

The Javanese collections are not permanently installed; but they will be opened specially today for your benefit. You will find them on the ground floor in Hall G.

D. C. DAVIES, Director.

JAVA AND THE EAST INDIES

We sail southward from Japan to reach the Malay Archipelago or the Old East Indies. On our way we pass the Philippines, which form the northern portion of the largest group of islands in the world. Turning southeast, we sail among the Moluccas or the Spice Islands. These are the original East Indies, which are responsible, in part, for the discovery of America. The ancient geographer Ptolemy and the famous traveller Marco Polo wrote of islands in the Pacific; but it was not until the time of Columbus that the Indies became popular for their spices. In the search for new trade routes to the East, men first sailed around the world. Magellan and Drake were among the first who sailed from the Americas across the Pacific and reached the East Indies from the west. For years European nations quarreled over the ownership of these islands; but today the majority of them are ruled by Holland, and are known as the Dutch East Indies.

Let us explore one of the larger islands in these tropical seas. Java is a long strip of land surrounded by the Indian Ocean and the Java Sea. From east to west along the narrow country rise a hundred and forty volcanoes; and many of them, such as Bromo and Mount Thunder, pour smoke or lava from their

craters often.

The weather is always warm in Java; and the winds from the ocean bring plenty of moisture. Trees and flowers, therefore, are so numerous and beautiful that Java is called the Garden of the East. In addition to the natural gardens, Java contains the most famous Botanical Gardens in the world. Thousands of different kinds of plants are displayed at Buitenzorg. The arched tops and tall trunks of kanari trees make tunnels of the paths; and the ponds are filled with lotus blossoms and the flat leaves of Victoria Regia, largest of tropical waterlilies. Along the shore are beautiful orchids and pitcher plants. All over Java the waringin trees spread their branches like great umbrellas. Java, too, is a land of rice and sugar-cane; of nutmegs and other spices; and of fruits in tropical abundance.

Animals live very comfortably in the island. The great fruit-eating bats sleep all day hanging from the trees in black clusters; and at dusk they fly in long lines to their feeding grounds. There is an ape in Java called the wou-wou which cries like a baby all day. Hundreds of wild pigs are hunted and killed because they spoil the growing crops. The forests hide the rhinoceros, the leopard, and the tiger; and there can be found a great bird, called the hornbill, which has a bill somewhat like the horn of a rhinoceros.

The Javanese people have brown slender bodies, and are very graceful. Women and girls wear a kind of skirt called "sarong"; and in some parts of Java boys, too, wear sarongs. Boys also have long hair; but they hide it under cloths like immense handkerchiefs tied over their heads. Although girls seldom wear hats, they put fancy pins and fresh flowers in their hair. They love flowers so much that they often wear flower necklaces and bracelets. They are proud of their pretty scarfs called "slendang," which are often tied across one shoulder and used as a baby carriage. Everybody in Java goes barefoot, even in the presence of their chiefs or native sultans. They carry gay parasols called "payong"; and show their power or rank by the size, the color, and the amount of gold decoration on the payong.

The majority of Javanese live in very small villages known as "dessas," surrounded by a hedge of

The majority of Javanese live in very small villages known as "dessas," surrounded by a hedge of bamboo and palm-trees. It is always smoky inside the houses; for there are no chimneys and few windows. Many houses are built on the ground, and none of them is more than one story high. The family sleep on mats on the floor, or on low wooden bed frames. The village clock is a drum. The Javanese seldom need policemen or lawyers; for they obey the "adat" or law of custom which really means that

they continue to do the things they have done for centuries in the past.

The natives are very fond of entertainments; and will sit for hours watching plays and listening to music. Their favorite type of play is the wayang, a puppet show. The girls and women sit in front of a screen and watch the moving shadows of queer figures cut from buffalo leather. The boys and men sit behind the screen and watch the actor as he moves the dolls and reads the text of the play. Sometimes the show-man uses real dolls instead of flat leather ones. They always have long noses or chins and queer head-dresses; and they have fancy costumes which hide the sticks forming the lower parts of their bodies. Sometimes real people come on the stage and act without talking while the show-man or dalan reads the parts. The actors wear masks, which they hold in place by their teeth or with one hand. Occasionally the Javanese give regular plays in which the actors speak their own parts, and are not masked; and often they have dancers who pose gracefully like beautiful brown statues.

During every performance, weird oriental music is played by the "gamelan" or native orchestra. The musicians sit on the ground and play on drums, gongs, and wind instruments. Bronze and copper gongs of various sizes and shapes are placed on low wooden platforms or hung on frames; and are struck by hammers of wood or metal. A favorite instrument is the rebab, which is a kind of violin with two

strings.

When a Javanese boy has passed the age of fourteen, he proudly places a large bright knife in his belt. This is the kris. It is about a foot long, and has a beautiful handle of carved wood or ivory; or of decorated metal inlaid with jewels. The number of krises which a man may carry, and the amount of

decoration on them, depend on his rank and authority.

The women of Java make beautiful designs on cotton fabrics by a special process called "batik." The artist uses a very small copper cup called a tyanting, from one end of which extends a hollow tube as slender as a pen point. Liquid wax in the cup trickles from the tyanting like ink from a pen; and thus designs are traced on the cloth. Then the fabric is dyed; and the parts under the wax remain uncolored. When the wax is put on different parts of the cloth, and different colors are used in several dippings, the final patterns are lovely. Java is famous for scarfs, sarongs, and other fabrics designed and colored in batik.

On the ground floor of the Museum, in Hall G, there are many beautiful batik fabrics. Look also for the ornamented krises and other fine metal objects from Java. At the east end of the hall you can see a real gamelan; and nearby there are some figures from the wayang. This Hall is filled with beautiful

and strange things from the Malay Archipelago.

Margaret Fisher, Guide-Lecturer.

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D. C. DAVIES, Director.

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FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

MUSEUM STORIES

FOR

CHILDREN

SERIES V
NUMBER SEVEN

NOVEMBER 13, 1926

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

ROOSEVELT ROAD AND LAKE MICHIGAN CHICAGO

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MUSEUM STORIES FOR CHILDREN

SERIES V

NUMBER EIGHT

NOVEMBER 20, 1926

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

Australia is the largest island and the smallest continent in the world. The films today will give you a glimpse of it and other islands included in the Commonwealth of Australia.

D. C. DAVIES, Director.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

Southeast of Java lies a great island-continent-Australia. One writer says that Australia is like a large dinner plate, because it has low, flat land in the center and high mountainous country all around the edge. The north coast seems much like that of Java, with its tropical plant life; but there are no volcanoes. Turning south along the east coast we reach the Great Barrier Reef, the largest coral reef in the world. All along the east coast runs the Great Dividing Range. If we continue south beyond Australia, we reach the island of Tasmania, which is one of the states in the Commonwealth of Australia. Today, however, we shall visit the larger country.

Since Australia is in the southern hemisphere, Christmas time is summer there; and Fourth of July, mid-winter. As a rule, the north wind is warmer than the south wind; and the sunny side of the house is always toward the north. There is very little snow, even on the mountains; for the surrounding ocean keeps the weather rather warm all year. Except in the tropical northeastern districts there is very little rain in Australia; and the grass on the wide plains of the interior is usually dry and brown.

Although we may travel for miles in central Australia without seeing any trees, the country as a whole is famous for its so-called gum trees. These are eucalyptus trees, the leaves of which furnish quantities of oil. A common type of eucalyptus grows only a foot or two high and has many thin stems which spread out near the ground like an umbrella. This is the "mallee" scrub. Blossoming acacia trees are known as "wattle." A kind of tulip called "waratah" is the national flower. Another peculiar Australian plant is known as the grass tree and has a long spike of white blossoms surrounded by a clump of wire-like leaves. There are so many varieties of bushes in the land that the people who live in the cities call the rest of Australia "the Bush."

Australia is the home of kangaroos. These strange animals feed on the dry grass all over the country, carrying their babies in pouches of skin. Here, too, we can see many other animals and birds not to be found in the rest of the world. One of them is the dingo, a wild dog. There are also wombats, duck-bills, echidnas, and several kinds of phalangers. Among the birds are cockatoos and many honeyeaters; and the emu, a great creature similar to the ostrich. Australia has some unusual birds such as black swans, white eagles and turkeys that build mounds. Strange to say, there are no monkeys and

no woodpeckers in the country.

The Australian natives are so dark-skinned that the white settlers call them "blackfellows." They look much like African negroes, except that their hair is usually not so curly. Those who are still living as savages wear no clothes. Some of them have cloaks of kangaroo skins which they wear occasionally. Many of them wrap around the waist a string made of native opossum fur. Australian savages have no real houses; for they live out-of-doors all day, and at night they curl up like hedgehogs against grass or bark shelters. These blackfellows have peculiar weapons for hunting and warfare. Their spears are usually made entirely of wood, even to the sharpened points. Practically every native has a "wommera" or throwing stick to help in propelling the spear. It is a small board held in the hand; and it serves a purpose for the spear similar to that of the sling for shot or the bow for an arrow. The most remarkable Australian weapon is the boomerang or "kilee." It is a curved stick made of hardwood. When thrown by a skillful marksman it can travel through the air at great speed for five hundred feet more or less. Some boomerangs are made and thrown in such a way that they return to the starting point after an irregular flight. Although the Hopi Indians of America and several other peoples have curved throwing sticks, no people in the world but the Australian blackfellows have the real returning boomerang.

Today Australia is settled chiefly by white men from England, Europe, and America; and the native Australian is disappearing, like the Indian in America. All the natives of Tasmania have died;

and there are less than two hundred thousand native Australians.

White men first learned of Australia about the time America was discovered. At that time many sailors believed that Tasmania was inhabited by giants. After a number of explorers had skirted the coasts of Australia, Captain Cook finally claimed the country for England; and today the Commonwealth of Australia is a part of the British Empire. It includes six states: New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, West Australia, and Tasmania; as well as the territories of North Australia

and Papua.

Recently many people from the northern hemisphere have gone out to seek their fortunes in Australia. The great dry plains are wonderful pastures for sheep; and also for cattle and horses. Australians let their stock run all year in fields so large that the animals can get all the food they need from the natural grass. The large enclosures and the owners' homes are called sheep stations or cattle stations. Wool and meats are shipped in quantities all over the world. Other countries also depend on Australia now for wheat and other cereals; and for gold and many products of the mines. Kangaroo skins and rabbit furs are in demand, too. Australians, indeed, are very glad to be rid of rabbits; for the creatures have multiplied so rapidly since they were brought to the country that they are ruining crops and pasture land.

Field Museum has a collection of animals and birds from Australia. You will find the animals in Hall 15 and the birds in Hall 21. Look especially for the kangaroo mother with her baby in the pouch. Among the American Indian collections in Hall 7, you can see a Hopi Indian rabbit hunter holding a curved stick somewhat like the Australian boomerang. In Joseph N. Field Hall (Hall 10) there are some articles made by natives of British New Guinea, territory controlled by the Common-

wealth of Australia.

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MUSEUM STORIES FOR CHILDREN

SERIES V

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FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

ROOSEVELT ROAD AND LAKE MICHIGAN CHICAGO

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FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

films today will give you a glimpse of it and other islands included in the Com-Australia is the largest island and the smallest continent in the world. The

D. C. DAVIES, Director.

MUSEUM STORIES FOR CHILDREN

NUMBER NINE
NOVEMBER 27, 1926

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

The trip around the world is completed today with a glimpse of the South Sea Islands. During the winter there will be several special entertainments for children and in the spring there will be another series.

D. C. DAVIES, Director.

ISLANDS OF THE SOUTH SEAS

Our trip around the world is almost at an end. Today we cross the Pacific Ocean and stop for a glimpse of Samoa and other islands of the South Seas. Most of the islands scattered over the Pacific between Asia and America are known collectively as Oceania. Except in New Zealand there is scarcely any difference between summer and winter throughout Oceania; for the weather is always warm. Many of the smaller islands seem like floating bits of fairyland.

Many of the South Sea Islands are really the tops of volcanic mountains rising high above the water; and some are made of coral deposits resting on mountains which are buried under the surface of the ocean. The mountainous interior of many islands is covered with ferns, palms and other tropical plants. Near the shore are narrow stretches of level ground on which we may see a glimpse of native villages and perhaps a few garden patches. Often the coral reefs along the outer edge of the islands form barriers between land and sea. Great waves break over the reefs and send white spray into the air.

Geographers divide the South Sea Islands into three groups,—Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia. The term Melanesia is formed of Greek words and means "black island"; and the name was given to that group because most of the natives have very dark skin. Some Melanesian tribes were cannibals. Many use bows and arrows. They carve and paint figures and masks to represent spirits; and they wear shell ornaments. Strange to say, they know very little about making or using boats.

The name Micronesia means "small island"; and all of the islands in that group deserve the name. Most of them lie north of the equator; and all are east of the Philippines. The Micronesians have brown skin. Some of them resemble Asiatic peoples; some are like Australian natives; and others are like the people of the third group. They are among the cleverest seamen in the Pacific. They make large canoes with outriggers or platforms extending beyond the side to balance the boats in rough water. Some of them use terrible weapons of sharks' teeth inserted in wood or bone; and wear armor, helmets and shields made of sennit, which is braided coconut fiber.

The third group includes all the other islands in Oceania. There are so many that this group is called Polynesia,—"many islands." Polynesia includes the Hawaiian Islands north of the equator; New Zealand far south of it; Easter Island on the way to South America; and Samoa on the international date line. Many of the Polynesians have intermarried with black, yellow or brown peoples. Even the purest Polynesians have brown skin. Some of them are very beautiful; especially the Samoans, who are said to be among the tallest people in the world. There is a tradition among the Polynesians that they all came originally from Savaii, the largest of the Samoan Islands. We shall visit those islands today; for our steamer stops for coal at Pago Pago in Samoa, on its way from Australia to San Francisco.

In watching the natives of Samoa at their work and play, we shall lcarn many interesting facts concerning life in the South Seas. They are excellent swimmers, and are skillful in managing their dugout canoes. Fishing occupies much of their time. The children gather crabs and shell-fish. One large crab is called robber because it climbs trees and steals coconuts. The young men and boys catch fish on the end of spears or in nets. Sometimes they capture a turtle, a shark or an octopus. Once a year the natives have a great feast of worms. The palolo worm hides in the coral reefs until egg-laying time. Then its body splits, the half full of eggs rising to the surface of the water and scattering the eggs. The worms are caught in nets, roasted and eaten.

Next in importance to sea foods is the coconut. The meat of this fruit is often shaved into bits and eaten like pudding; and the milk takes the place of drinking water when that is scarce. Samoans are very fond of a drink made from the roots of the Kava plant. The ceremonies of making and drinking Kava are elaborate. A healthy young girl with good teeth, who is chosen by the village chiefs, chews the roots to a soft pulp. Then the juices are mixed with water in a large wooden bowl. The solid pieces are removed with a fiber strainer. The yellow liquid is served to the chiefs in order of rank; and the common people must wait until the noblemen have had their share.

Samoans, like other South Sea Islanders, are famous for making tapa bark cloth. The inner bark of the paper mulberry tree is soaked in water and then beaten with a grooved wooden mallet. Several layers of the soft fiber are glued together with arrowroot paste. The cloth is decorated with the aid of a stencil or stamp made of coconut and Pandanus leaves. The artist uses a certain kind of earth and a varnish-like sap for red and brown colors; the candlenut mixed with oil, for black; and the root of turmeric, for yellow. Men and women wear tapa cloth as skirts. In addition to tapa skirts, they wear necklaces of shell and seeds; and deck their hair with Hibiscus and other flowers.

Samoans are graceful dancers. Men, women and children take part in ceremonial dances called sivas. Until recently Samoan boys could not be counted as men unless they were tattooed. The process is painful; for needles covered with colored dyes are forced beneath the skin in order to make a permanent design on the body. Only one girl in each Samoan village must be tattooed. This is the "taupou," chosen to represent the village and married to the chief of a neighboring village. Everything must be done fa'a Samoa, or according to custom; for this is the law of the land.

Field Museum has good collections from the South Seas. You can find many articles from Melanesia in Joseph N. Field Hall (Hall 10). On the ground floor, in Hall F, are the Micronesian and Polynesian collections. Look especially for the tapa cloth and Kava bowls from Samoa.

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